

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /051 W

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O P 250945Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9409

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

CINCPACAF PRIORITY

CINCPACFLT PRIORITY

CINCPACREPPHIL PRIORITY

CG 13TH AF PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12934

FROM USDEL 227

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. ROMUALDEZ INFORMED ME AFTERNOON AUGUST 25 THAT HE HAD MET THAT SAME MORNING WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS TO GIVE HIM LIST OF ISSUES REQUIRING POLITICAL RESOLUTION WHICH HAD BEEN DRAWN UP BY THE TWO NEGOTIATING PANELS. HE SAID HE HAD ALSO INFORMED MARCOS THAT PHILIPPINE PANEL UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDED THAT NEGOTIATIONS BE RECESSED UNTIL AFTER U.S. ELECTIONS.

2. HE SAID MARCOS HAD GLANCED BRIEFLY AT LIST OF ISSUES AND INDICATED HE WISHED TO STUDY THEM FURTHER BEFORE MAKING ANY DECISION ON PHILIPPINE PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

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MARCOS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON HAD

MADE CLEAR TO HIM IN PRIVATE TALKS THAT U.S. WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS AND "FOR THE TIME BEING" HE WISHED PHILIPPINE PANEL TO DO THE SAME THING.

3. MARCOS THEN PROPOSED TO MEET AGAIN WITH ROMUALDEZ AUGUST 27 AFTER HE HAD STUDIED THE ISSUES PAPER. HE SAID BY THAT TIME HE EXPECTED TO HAVE REACTION TO PHILIPPINE PANEL'S PROPOSAL FOR RECESS.

4. I TOLD ROMUALDEZ MY INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO CONTINUE WORKING TOWARDS AN EARLY AND MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THEREFORE, IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT ANY RECESS WOULD COME AS RESULT OF PHILIPPINE CHOICE. I RECOGNIZED THAT "IT TOOK TWO TO TANGO" AND, NATURALLY, IF PRESIDENT MARCOS DECIDED UPON A RECESS, WE WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT POSITION AND AGREE. ROMUALDEZ SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION.

5. ROMUALDEZ THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD BE SECONDARY CONSIDERATIONS IN THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION, THERE WERE OTHER FACTORS FAVORING A RECESS. FIRST, THE CENTRAL BANK PREMISES WHERE WE WERE MEETING WERE COMMITTED TO OTHER PURPOSES IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER. SECOND, HE HAD SEVERAL COMMITMENTS OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE WHICH WOULD MAKE HIM PERSONALLY UNAVAILABLE. HE STRESSED THAT THESE CONSIDERATIONS COULD BE SET ASIDE IF PRESIDENT MARCOS DESIRES TO HAVE THE TALKS CONTINUE.

6. COMMENT: PHILIPPINE PANEL SEEMS SET UPON RECESS ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 31. HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR ON BOTH SIDES THAT ANY DECISION TO THAT EFFECT WILL HAVE TO BE DELIBERATE CHOICE OF PRESIDENT MARCOS.

SULLIVAN

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